

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK

Policy Council Minutes May 22, 2002

Members/Representatives Present:

- Carol Anselmi, HSS Administration
- Jeronimo Breen, Department of Behavioral Health
- Jeff Broyde, Public Defender's Office
- Cathy Cimbalo, Director, Department of Children's Services
- Bruce Davis, 3rd District Board of Supervisors Representative
- Jerry Farber, Public Defender's Office
- Judge Donna Garza, Juvenile Court - Chairperson
- Gerald Greene, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center
- Andy Gruchy, Department of Behavioral Health
- Bonnie Konowitch, Children's Network
- Terry Kramer, Department of Behavioral Health
- Don Larkin, Children's and Families Commission
- Joyce Lewis, Department of Behavioral Health
- Rudy Lopez, Director of Department of Behavioral Health
- Susan Melanson, Children's Network
- Kimberly Michael, County Library
- Clark Morrow, SBSD
- Thomas Prendergast, Department of Public Health
- Mel Rinewalt, Probation Department
- Claudia Spencer, Department of Public Health
- Ruth Stringer, County Counsel
- Julian Weaver, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
- Paula Roby, Department of Behavioral Health
- Sandra DeJarnett,
- Pamalalee Bailey-Shimizu, First Nations
- Edward Rowe, Children's Network
- VaNessa Vollmer, Department of Behavior Health/Children's Network
- Fatima Torres,
- Jeff Wagner, Department of Children's Services - ARD
- Jeanne Stile,
- Marilyn Campbell, FSA of San Bernardino
- Panda Harris, SB County, HSS Contracts
- Coley Bowman, Department of Children's Services - ARD
- Janet Cullen, Department of Children's Services - ARD
- Amos Isaac, Grand Jury
- Jan Carter, Grand Jury

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- Honorable Tara Reilly, Juvenile Court
- Kent Paxton, Children's Network Officer
- Tammy Williams, Children's Network

The meeting of the Children's Policy Council was called to order at 12:10 p.m. and convened by Carol Anselmi in the Citrus Room, Fifth Floor, County Government Center. Judge Garza arrived later and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Carol Anselmi welcomed those present including the guests from Department of Children's Services; ARD (Administrative Resources Division) and some of the CAPIT contractors. Self-introductions were made.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

All were in favor of the agenda as it reads, with no changes.

3.0 Approval of March 27, 2002 Minutes

All in favor of no changes or corrections to the minutes as read.

4.0 Information Items

4.1 Children's Fund Report

Kent Paxton reported the following activities for Bonnie O'Connor:

- The annual Memorial Gary Anderson Golf Tournament will be held on June 10, 2002 and is anticipated to be a great fundraiser.
- The Annual Duck Race was very successful raising \$61,000 with 15,000 to 17,000 ducks in the water.
- Bonnie O'Connor is looking for a Program Coordinator.

4.2 CSOC Update

Rudy Lopez announced that the Governor's Budget will be eliminating the CSOC (Children's System of Care) budget of 1.2 or 1.3 million dollars. Through the CSOC valuable resources and collaborations have formed.

Rudy mentioned that his staff will continue to work collaboratively and they all see the problems with not treating the population of children that are at-risk such as the need for residential treatment centers for substance abusing adolescents. The Department of Behavioral Health will partner with other departments to make sure the work is carried on.

Kent Paxton mentioned that this work has been going on since the 70's with Department of Behavioral Health, County Schools, Department of Public Health, Department of Children's Services and various other agencies. Kent referred all to the ELO (Early Learning Opportunities Grant) information in your packet.

The county accepted this grant for 18 months to work with DBH (Department of Behavior Health) Perinatal Clinics and ChildCare Facilities. The purpose is to train caregivers to identify high-risk children in the age group of 0 to 5 years for treatment. This will help with avoidance of high cost placements. Dr. VaNessa Vollmer in conjunction with the ELO grant is identifying and collaborating with parents of these high-risk children. She is also looking at a variety of options for high-risk children to build capacity.

Kent introduced Edward Rowe, who has a background in Mental Health and CPS (Child Protective Services) who has just joined the Children's Network team to expand the Family Preservation Councils. Last year the MDTs (Multi-Disciplinary Teams) staffed 300 cases. Kent envisions the number will be much higher by adding Edward Rowe. Kent reported after 6 months the cases would be reviewed to see if high cost placement was avoided.

4.3 School Linked Services Update

Julian Weaver referred everyone to the chart he developed to show Collaborative Services to Kids and School Districts. Julian had the assignment to develop a chart that will create a database with information provided by agencies. This process will help in; identifying gaps, maximize resources, and create a process to identify current partners from the County. Julian will continue to report back the progress to this group. Julian suggested you call him at (909) 386-2902 or e-mail him with additional input.

5.0 Discussion/Action Items

5.1 Child Abuse Prevention Intervention Treatment (CAPIT) Contracts. Approval is requested to forward the CAPIT contract recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Cathy Cimbalo reported the RFP process was just completed successfully. Cathy referred everyone to a separate graph that shows the CAPIT Proposal Information, Revised and DCS Review Panel Recommendations. Cathy stated that the funding for CAPIT comes from birth certificates and an allocation from the state.

Panda Harris reported that there were 14 proposals received, after 3 unbiased reviewers evaluated them, 13 met the technical criteria. The new contracts begin in July 2002.

Cathy Cimbalo asked the voting members if the CAPIT contracts could now go to the Board of Supervisors for their approval? Karen Bell asked to abstain for voting. Pamela Bailey-Shimizu was thankful for the process and appreciates the funding for First Nations and discussed some ways the proposed funding will help. A motion was made to forward the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

5.2 Early Learning Opportunities (ELO) Grant Technical Assistance Contract. Approval is requested to forward the ELO Technical Assistance Contract recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Kent Paxton referred all to the packet that has the RFP (Request for Proposal) for Technical Assistance that gives more of the details of ELO. The RFP was for technical assistance. The only respondent was Cal-State, San Bernardino. Cal-State will be assisting in the training of providers who care for high-risk children. HSS (Human Services System) will be doing the evaluation piece. A motion was made to forward the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors with no opposition after negotiations with Cal-State are completed.

5.3 Group Home/Rate Setting Letter of Support. Approval is Requested to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for a letter of support to the SDSS Foster Care Rate Setting Bureau for the East Valley CHARLEE Group Home Program to go from RCL 11 to an RCL 12.

Paula Roby referred everyone to the handout in the packet for more details. DBH has a number of monetary contracts with group homes. DBH has worked with East Valley CHARLEE for more than 20 years. The group home is in the process of increasing their level of care from RCL 11 to RCL 12 which amounts to approximately \$600 more per child per month. The group home presently has 18 beds and is usually full with children from this county. This rate proposal was already taken to the ICPC (Inter County Placement Committee) and they agreed the need is out there. Kent Paxton has helped formulate a letter of support. Bruce Davis thanked staff for the research behind the recommendation and would vote for it if he were a member. A motion was made to forward the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors with no opposition.

5.4 Children's Lobby Support: recommendation for Board of Supervisors support of SB 1744 is requested.

Kent Paxton referred all to the handouts in the packet on; Summary of the bill and memo, "Procedure for Tracking PC 1368 Cases (Criminal Proceedings Suspended-When Minor Found Incompetent). This bill was proposed at Children's Lobby yesterday. Basically, this bill would establish a clear statutory process for evaluating the mental status of; requiring mental health treatment of, and adjudicating the cases of minors in the juvenile court system who are mentally incompetent. There was a lengthy discussion about this bill and below you will find some of the highlights of the discussion:

- Judge Garza likes the bill except; she doesn't like #17, which set limits of 3 years for a felon who's declared mentally incompetent. She mentioned that it is too limiting for the felony charges of a minor. It was also mentioned that the court could get involved when the minor is mentally incompetent. The Juvenile Court needs provision for those who are not currently wards of the court. 6550 requires that the youth is mentally incompetent and a danger. A misdemeanor often isn't a danger.
- Mel Rinewalt stated Probation would be supportive of a one-year maximum sentence.

- Andy Gruchy believes the bill could be used as; identifying processes; addressing needs; allocating resources, and the ability to provide more resources then would have normally.
- Jeff Broyde felt that basically the bill was good, but did have a lot of drawbacks. He felt that the streamline of procedures would be very helpful. He stated there is no civil code for PC 1368 cases in Juvenile Court and that WIC 5585.52 applies to minors. Jeff was concerned how cases would be handled when the parent is in psychiatric care and the minor is 16 or 17 who is incompetent being placed in psychiatric care with the parents. He was also concerned about cases being referred to the IRC (Inland Regional Center) and how they are handled. Kent mentioned that this information was sent to IRC.
- Karen Bell mentioned that there are gaping holes in the systems that deal with incompetent adults and children and also the cases where the child and or adult is a danger to others and themselves.
- Jerry Farber mentioned that he didn't like #17 time limits of one year, but does like using an adult system of handling situations. He was pleased with the case law history telling you how to proceed. Jerry mentioned he could offer support of the bill with some changes.
- Rudy Lopez was concerned about #13 and that court ordered treatment needs to be left to the determination of mental health professionals. Adults are sent to Patton with the cost going to the state, but a minor going to State Mental Institution is a local cost paid by the county. He also stated that #21 would be an economic cost problem. He mentioned that the principles of the bill were good, but that are gaps that need something done about.
- Jeronimo Breen made a motion to move the bill forward with a support position. The majority vote was made to move it forward. There were 2 votes against.

Action: On bill SB 1744, after some discussion it was decided that we must look at the economic analysis for the Board of Supervisors and some of the opposition to the bill. Jeff Broyde and Karen Bell opposed the bill. After much discussion a motion was made by Jeronimo Breen and seconded by Jerry Farber in support of this bill. Kent Paxton asked the membership to e-mail their thoughts and that this bill will be brought back to the next meeting.

6.0 Other

Discussion of AB 2455 that focuses on Drowning Prevention. This bill regulates new construction of swimming pools and swimming pools in houses to be sold.

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The bill proposes that swimming pool owners must have (2) barriers/preventive measures in place such as; fencing alarms on doors leading to the swimming pool, locking gates, etc. The purpose is to slow down children between the ages of 1 to 4 who have the highest incidence of drowning and are the fastest population.

Action: This bill was not put on the agenda so it can not be voted on due to this membership must follow the Brown Act. The Executive Committee consisting of Judge Garza, Carol Anselmi and Supervisor Dennis Hansberger can recommend action to the Board of Supervisors for this item, since it was not on the agenda. Carol Anselmi and Judge Garza voiced support of the bill AB 2455. Kent Paxton will follow-up with Supervisor Dennis Hansberger, since he was not present today. There was further discussion about the affects of the bill on the real estate and building industry.

7.0 Public Comment

8.0 Adjournment

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be June 26, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Williams
Children's Network Policy Council Recording Secretary

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